

# Devon Community Foundation

## COVID-19 Response Weekly Briefing 23 April 2020

Hello everyone and welcome to this week's briefing. We'd like to make this as useful and interactive as possible, so welcome feedback and suggestions about content.

If you know anyone else who'd be interested in receiving the briefing, feel free to forward, and encourage those to whom you forward to email [nicola@devoncf.com](mailto:nicola@devoncf.com) to be put on the mailing list. Briefings will come out on a Thursday morning.

Click on the **BOLD COLOURED** links to be redirected to useful resources - Right click on the links if you want to open it in a separate window.





## Organisational Matters

Scottish CVO has a really good [coronavirus hub](#), with a range of resources, though obviously some are Scotland-specific. [This](#), on new service delivery models, is especially useful.

There's a wide-ranging article with communications advice for charities [here](#).

NPC have released some of their regular [State of the Sector](#) findings in advance of the full report. One interesting point is that a significant number of public-sector contracts are cross-subsidised by charities through other income, notably from fundraising. With this substantially reduced going forward, some charities may find themselves unable to deliver public sector contracts. Does anyone have any knowledge of organisations in Devon who might find themselves in this position?

The emergency volunteer leave' legislated for by the government is a potential opportunity, but needs coordination to link would-be volunteers, or their employers, to match skills with the gaps. Volunteering Matters is leading a [registration scheme](#) for businesses.



## Research

The Young Foundation has launched an innovative Citizen Science research project, [COVID, Community and You](#), to help understand the effect the COVID crisis is having on individuals and communities. The study will cover questions such as:

- How are Covid-19 and the measures to control it affecting and shaping the interactions between individuals in society?
- What effect is the pandemic having on our community wellbeing, quality of life and resilience?
- How is digital playing a role in community responses to the spread of coronavirus?

What is the impact of the pandemic on how and where we can access support? There are several ways to get involved in the project, and it will run until June. We look forward to seeing the results! We're keen to hear about any other survey or research work which aims to shed light on aspects of this crisis – do let us know about any you come across.



## Spotlight on ... Physical Activity

As well as being important for cardiovascular health, regular physical activity is also beneficial for mental wellbeing and for reducing the risk of developing depression. Among older people, physical activity is associated with better health and cognitive function, and can reduce the risk of falls in those with mobility problems.

Even in the best of times, we do not move enough. According to the 2016 Health Survey for England, only 62% of adults in England do enough aerobic exercise, with older and more deprived people least likely to meet the guideline amounts.

Since the lockdown, with the closure of gyms, sports clubs ceasing activity, and people not able to travel for exercise, many people cannot exercise in their usual way. 60% of adults are worried that they are exercising less.

Some pre-existing online resources can help keep people moving during the crisis, both indoors and outdoors. For example the [NHS Get Fit For Free](#) website has lots of helpful plans and exercises, as does the [Change4Life site](#), which focuses on families.

Other resources have resulted directly from the new restrictions we're living under, and provide opportunities for more people to build physical activity into their lives.

Active Devon have created a [weekly timetable](#) of free online physical activity, from trusted providers, many of whom are Devon-based, including opportunities for children and older people.

## In Devon ...

For local community groups that focus on physical activity, there is short-term support funding available from [Sport England](#), but longer-term there remain concerns about viability, especially for those with significant fixed costs. Some find it easier than others to maintain momentum remotely. Others are mobilising the collective spirit within memberships to support the local crisis response.

In many places in Devon, especially in smaller communities, and in some more disadvantaged areas, sports clubs can be much more than simply opportunities to play a game. They have a crucial social role in bringing local people together, mobilising massive amounts of voluntary action, and providing venues for social and community activity in areas where there might not be many other options. Future support for struggling clubs will need to take this into account as well as the value they add in terms of physical activity.

Here are some examples of the situations organisations focused on physical activity find themselves in:

[Plymouth Sports Charity](#) is developing its online platform so that it can deliver sessions remotely and continue its services, and has made this free for everyone during the isolation period. [Exeter Martial Arts](#) are also doing classes for adults and children online.

[Exeter Water Polo Club](#) is naturally finding it more challenging to continue business as usual remotely. They are thinking about creating videos of water polo-specific exercise sessions that can be done at home. The club is also experiencing financial difficulties, losing membership income, whilst continuing to incur some costs, and are looking at ways to mitigate this. The club is worried that ongoing disruption to leagues and competitions reaching into the future, along with a prolonged period without contact from the club, could lead to some members not returning once normal service resumes. One of the things they are considering is running a social event, once it is permitted, to reengage people with the club.

[Freemovement CIC](#) in Exeter has had to stop its park-based exercise sessions, but members are supporting the community effort by delivering hot meals to people in need, including homeless people, using bicycle trailers.

[Love Sports Story](#) is a Torbay-based CIC created to enrich lives of disadvantaged local people through sport. It has secured funding through the DCF crisis response fund to build on its relationships with young people at risk of criminal exploitation through outreach and remote work at this time of crisis. Ordinarily this street-based work is paid for through income from sports sessions.



## Funding Resources

DCF has a list of [alternative funding sources](#) on our website.

Directory of Social Change has a regularly updated [blog](#) on funding.

The Charity Excellence Framework has launched a [Covid-19 Funders](#) list and Free Funder Database. The funder list includes over 300 funders for both community groups and individuals.



## DCF Funding Update

Crisis grants made since the last bulletin. We're publishing grants data weekly through [360giving.](https://www.360giving.co.uk)

### **Hayward's Primary School - £2150**

Crediton

Provision of chromebooks to support home learning for children without internet access to facilitate inclusion in remote educational activities, helping to prevent them from falling academically behind their peers

### **Ashburton COVID19 Community Emergency Response Team - £1000**

Ashburton & surrounding area.

Co-ordinating and delivering community activity to ensure that local residents have basic needs met and access to food and medication

### **Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support - £1500**

Axminster

Introducing additional counselling and resource packs to address increased anxiety faced by people having postponed or cancelled cancer treatment and in isolation from usual support networks

### **Routeways Centre Ltd - £1500**

Plymouth Providing activities based around known interests to offer respite during lockdown to the families of young people with additional needs

### **CHIL Plymouth (Previously known as Community Health in Keyham) - £2000**

Plymouth and surrounding areas

Purchasing of equipment and staff and volunteer costs to enable additional and remote support to people facing mental health challenges

### **Cruse Bereavement Care (South Devon) - £5262**

We provide support across all Devon areas

Adapting bereavement support from face to face to remote support and adapting training for volunteers to ensure continued delivery

**Homestart Teignbridge - £630**

Newton Abbot

Providing vulnerable families with young children with food and medication deliveries and co-ordination of volunteer telephone support

**Tectona Trust Ltd - £850**

Plymouth

Offering remote support to members recovering from mental health and substance misuse

**Punk Against Poverty CIC - £945**

Torbay

Provision of easily accessible 'pantries' across Torbay to offer essential food, toiletry and cleaning products to some of the most vulnerable across the area

**Whats Your Problem CIC - £2980**

Torbay

For a collective of Torbay advice organisations to meet additional demand for welfare and benefit remote advice

**Play Torbay - £1345**

Brixham

Provision of Play Packs to support children usually supported who have additional needs or are struggling at school

**Provide Devon - £1,152**

Plymouth

Extra staff hours to co-ordinate preparation and delivery of food packs to provide a weeks worth of food for referred families unable to access food banks and other food sources

**North Devon Hospice - £2530**

All of North Devon

Purchasing of PPE to help ensure the safety of patients and staff

**Honiton Carers Support Group - £500**

Honiton

Purchase of a new mobile to enable remote regular support contact for carers

**South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau - £1000**

Totnes

Set-up and ongoing costs for staff and volunteers to work from home to provide advice to members of the local community

**DYS Space Ltd - £10,000**

Devon

Match-funding for youth clubs

**Co-ordin8 CIC - £1800**

Torquay, Brixham and Paignton Provision of remote exercise activities, collection and delivery of food and medication and regular phone contact to adults with learning and sensory disabilities and their carers

**BOUNCE! Brighter Futures Foundation - £3300**

Tiverton

Extending existing mental health support for targeted primary-aged children and their families, in an online form, to the wider school community, and potentially beyond, subject to capacity.

**Tiverton Co-Operative Learning Partnership - £5000**

Tiverton

Provision of flexible emergency support to school families in need through existing relationships with family support staff

**Uplift - £670**

Tiverton and surrounding areas

Provision of nappies and wet wipes for families with young children who are facing financial hardship

**Love Sports Project CIC - £3633**

Torbay - Torquay, Paignton, Brixham

Engaging with known vulnerable young people to prevent criminal exploitation and activity during the coronavirus outbreak

**Community Links SW CIC - £3575**

West Devon - Okehampton and Tavistock plus surrounding areas

Provision of virtual group and 1:1 support for vulnerable families facing a greater risk of harm due to social distancing

## Mental Health : call for input

Next week we'll have a focus on the impact of the crisis on need in this area, and on the organisations who work to support those affected. Please do be in touch with any stories, examples, reflections from your own experience, or with details of people and organisations we ought to talk to. Please email: [insights@devoncf.com](mailto:insights@devoncf.com).



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